

CLAIMS

1. A lawnmower comprising:
 - a deck having a discharge opening;
 - an engine supported by said deck and having an output shaft rotating in
 - 5 response to operation of said engine;
 - a cutting blade interconnected with said output shaft under said deck and
 - rotatable in response to rotation of said output shaft to cut vegetation;
 - a mower handle attached to said deck and extending upwardly therefrom; and
 - a bag assembly releasably attached to the rest of said lawnmower, said bag
 - 10 assembly including a frame, a bag attached to said frame and having a bag opening
 - aligned with said discharge opening, and at least one wheel rotatably mounted to said
 - frame, said at least one wheel being in a stowed condition during lawnmower
 - operation;
 - wherein during operation of said lawnmower, clippings from under said deck
 - 15 are discharged into said bag through said discharge opening and bag opening;
 - wherein said bag assembly is detachable from the rest of said lawnmower to
 - haul away clippings in said bag; and
 - wherein, to enable rolling said bag assembly away from the rest of said
 - lawnmower, said at least one wheel at least partially supports said bag assembly only
 - 20 when said bag assembly is detached from the rest of said lawnmower.

2. The lawnmower of claim 1, wherein said bag assembly includes an axle interconnected with said frame and wherein said at least one wheel is mounted for rotation on said axle.

5 3. The lawnmower of claim 1, wherein said at least one wheel is adjacent said mower handle when said bag assembly is attached to the rest of said lawnmower.

4. The lawnmower of claim 1, wherein said bag assembly is oriented with said at least one wheel on top when said bag assembly is attached to the rest of
10 said lawnmower, and wherein said bag assembly is oriented with said at least one wheel on the bottom when rolling said bag assembly away from the rest of said lawnmower.

5. The lawnmower of claim 1, wherein said bag assembly also includes a
15 bag handle interconnected with said frame and movable between a retracted condition and an extended condition.

6. The lawnmower of claim 5, wherein said bag handle includes a fixed portion rigidly affixed to said frame and a moving portion in telescoping relation to
20 said fixed portion.

7. The lawnmower of claim 5, wherein said bag handle includes first and second fixed tubes rigidly affixed to opposite sides of said frame, first and second moving tubes within said fixed tubes and movable with respect to said fixed tubes, and a cross portion interconnecting said first and second moving tubes.

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8. The lawnmower of claim 5, wherein said bag handle must be in said retracted condition to enable said bag assembly to be attached to the rest of said lawnmower, and wherein said bag handle is movable to said extended condition when said bag assembly is detached from the rest of said lawnmower to facilitate rolling said bag assembly away from the rest of said lawnmower.

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9. The lawnmower of claim 5, further comprising a door pivotally attached to said deck and a biasing member biasing said door to a position covering said discharge opening, wherein said door must be opened to permit said bag assembly to be attached to the rest of said lawnmower, wherein said door engages a top surface of said bag assembly when said bag assembly is attached to the rest of said lawnmower, and wherein said handle is between said door and said bag when said bag assembly is attached to the rest of he lawnmower.

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10. The lawnmower of claim 1, wherein said bag assembly further includes a means for attaching said bag assembly to the rest of said lawnmower, at least one axle, and a lifting bar to facilitate lifting said bag assembly with respect to the rest of said lawnmower; wherein said at least one wheel is supported for rotation

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on said at least one axle; and wherein all of said frame is contained within said bag except for said means for attaching, said lifting bar, and said at least one axle.

11. The lawnmower of claim 10, wherein said bag includes a slit through
5 which said at least one axle extends, and wherein said bag further includes at least one flap for releasably closing said slit during operation of said lawnmower.

12. A bag assembly for use on a lawnmower having a deck with a discharge opening, the bag assembly comprising:

a frame;

5 means for releasably mounting the frame to the lawnmower;

a bag supported by the frame and having a bag opening aligning with the discharge opening when the bag assembly is mounted on the lawnmower; and

at least one wheel rotatably mounted to the frame, the at least one wheel being in a stowed condition, in which it does not support the weight of the bag assembly, when the bag assembly is mounted on the lawnmower, and the at least one wheel at least partially supporting the bag assembly when the bag assembly is detached from the lawnmower to facilitate rolling the bag assembly away from the lawnmower.

13. The bag assembly of claim 12, wherein the frame includes at least one axle rotatably supporting the at least one wheel, wherein the frame includes a lifting bar to facilitate lifting the bag assembly with respect to the lawnmower, and wherein all of the frame is contained within the bag except for the means for attaching, the lifting bar, and the at least one axle.

20 14. The lawnmower of claim 13, wherein the bag includes a slit through which the at least one axle extends, and wherein the bag further includes at least one flap for releasably closing the slit during operation of the lawnmower.

15. A lawnmower comprising:

a deck defining a discharge opening in a rear surface thereof;

an engine supported by said deck and having an output shaft extending down through said deck;

5 a cutting blade mounted to said output shaft for rotation therewith to cut vegetation within said cutting space;

a plate mounted to said rear surface of said deck;

a bag assembly including a pair of attachment bars releasably engaging said plate to attach said bag assembly to said deck, a frame, a bag supported by said frame

10 and having a bag opening aligned with said discharge opening such that vegetation clippings flow out of said cutting space and into said bag, and a pair of axles mounted to said frame;

a door pivotally mounted to said plate and biased toward a closed position in which said door covers said discharge opening, said door being propped open by said

15 bag assembly when said bag assembly is mounted on said deck such that said door is biased against said bag assembly to resist said attachment bars from disengaging said plate; and

a pair of wheels rotatably supported by respective ones of said pair of axles;

wherein said bag assembly is mounted to said plate with said wheels at the top

20 of said bag assembly such that said wheels are in a stowed condition and do not support the weight of said bag assembly during operation of said lawnmower; and

wherein said bag assembly is toppled over when said bag assembly is detached from said deck such that said wheels are at the bottom of said bag assembly

and said bag opening is at the top of said bag assembly, such that said bag assembly may be rolled away on said wheels.

16. The lawnmower of claim 15, further comprising a handle assembly interconnected with said bag assembly frame, said handle assembly including first and second fixed tubes mounted on respective first and second sides of said frame, and a handle assembly including first and second side tubes slidable within said fixed tubes and a cross member interconnecting said side tubes and providing a handle for a user to grasp when rolling said bag assembly away from the rest of said lawnmower.

17. The lawnmower of claim 15, further comprising a bag handle interconnected with said bag assembly and movable between a retracted condition and an extended condition, wherein said bag handle must be in said retracted condition when said bag assembly is mounted to said plate.

18. The lawnmower of claim 17, wherein said bag handle is movable between said retracted and extended conditions in a telescoping manner.

19. The lawnmower of claim 15, further comprising a bag handle mounted on said bag assembly, said bag handle being positioned between said bag and said door when said bag assembly is mounted to said plate.

20. A lawnmower comprising:
a deck defining a discharge opening;
an engine supported by the deck;
a cutting blade rotating below the deck in response to operation of the engine;
5 and
a bag assembly releasably mounted to said deck and including a bag
communicating with said discharge opening, at least one wheel, and a handle
movable between a retracted condition and an extended condition;
wherein when said bag assembly is mounted to said deck, said handle must be
10 in said retracted condition; and
wherein said handle is movable into said extended condition when said bag
assembly is detached from said deck to facilitate rolling said bag assembly away from
the rest of said lawnmower.

15 21. The lawnmower of claim 20, wherein said at least one wheel is at the
top of said bag assembly when said bag assembly is mounted to said deck such that
said at least one wheel bears no weight of said bag assembly during operation of said
lawnmower.

20 22. The lawnmower of claim 20, wherein said bag assembly includes at
least one fixed tube, and wherein said handle includes at least one sliding tube that is
in telescoping relation with said fixed tube for movement between said retracted and
extended conditions.

23. The lawnmower of claim 20, further comprising a door pivotally interconnected with said deck and biased to cover said discharge opening, wherein said handle is positioned between said door and said bag when said bag assembly is
5 mounted on the rest of the lawnmower.